

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A battery-powered device comprising a battery compartment with a coiled spring battery contact disposed in the compartment to scrape away a portion of an insulating contaminant layer from a surface of an abutting terminal of an installed battery.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 36, wherein the coiled spring contact comprises a plurality of concentric windings contiguous with an upper end turn with a terminal contact point laterally offset from an axis of rotation defined by the windings.

38. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 37, wherein the terminal contact point that imparts a pressure sufficient to rupture the insulating contaminant layer on the a surface of said abutting battery terminal-surface.

39. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 37, wherein during battery installation the coiled spring contact compresses in a manner that causes the terminal contact point to laterally shift away from the said axis of rotation, thereby scraping away at least a portion of said insulating contaminant layer, if any, disposed on the said surface of said abutting battery terminal.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 37, wherein the upper end turn is formed with a bend with an apex facing into the battery compartment to form the terminal contact point.

41. – 44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously Presented) A battery-powered device comprising:
a battery compartment; and
a coiled spring battery contact comprising means for rupturing an insulating contaminant layer on a localized region of an abutting battery terminal surface.

46. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 45, wherein the coiled spring battery contact further comprises:
means for scraping at least a portion of the insulating contaminant layer from the terminal surface as the battery is installed in the compartment.

47. (Currently Amended) The contact of claim 45, wherein the coiled spring contact comprises a plurality of concentric windings, and wherein the rupturing means comprises at least one bend in an upper turn of the coiled spring contact, each of said at least one bend having an apex facing into the battery compartment to define a terminal contact point.

48. (Previously Presented) The contact of claim 46, wherein the coiled spring contact comprises a plurality of concentric windings defining an axis of rotation, and wherein the scraping means comprises a bend on an upper turn of the coiled spring contact laterally offset from the axis of rotation, the bend having an apex facing into the battery compartment to define a terminal contact point.

49. – 50. (Canceled)